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AFTER ACTION REPORT

48TH TANK BATTALION

14TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

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8713-4-3

NOV 44 thru APR 45

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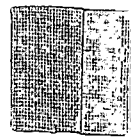
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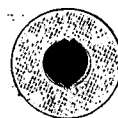
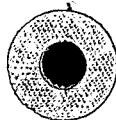
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NOV. 7, 1944.

MONTHLY REPORT

SUNDAY NOV. 1, 1944 to THURSDAY NOV. 7, 1944.

LOCATION: MARSEILLE FRANCE

TROOPS: No attachments.

ACTION: Bn was active in drawing of weapons, tanks and vehicles and in performing necessary work to arrive at 100% strength. Two days were used in the firing of all tank and small arms weapons. TAT equipment was transported from dock to bivouac area where necessary items were obtained and balance prepared for storage.

TUESDAY NOV. 8, 1944

LOCATION: MARSEILLE FRANCE.

TROOPS: NO Change.

Action: 1st train commanded by Capt Hammors departed from Canet for a forward staging area in Portioux la Vererrie. Balance of Bn prepared for their movement to same location.

THURSDAY NOV. 9, 1944.

LOCATION: MARSEILLE FRANCE.

TROOPS: No change.

Action: 2nd train commanded by Major England departed from Canet for a forward staging area in Portioux. Balance of Bn continued their preparation for later move.

FRIDAY NOV. 10, 1944.

LOCATION: MARSEILLE FRANCE

TROOPS: NO CHANGE.

ACTION: 3rd train commanded by Major Wilson departed from Septmes for Portioux and balance of Bn (wheeled vehicles) prepared for road march to same location. Personnel spent day policing of present bivouac area.

Saturday NOV. 11, 1944.

LOCATION: MARSEILLE FRANCE AND ENROUTE TO PORTICUX

TROOPS: NO CHANGE.

ACTION: Bn consisting of all wheeled vehicles departed from Marseille for road march (motor) to vicinity Portioux la Vererrie at 0730. One officer and vehicle with personnel remained to see that area was properly evacuated. Convoy made rapid progress and arrived at Valance at specified time where men were quartered and refueling of vehicles was accomplished.

SUNDAY NOV. 12, 1944.

LOCATION: MARSEILLE, FRANCE AND ENROUTE.

TROOPS: NO CHANGE.

ACTION: At 0730 convoy continued march. Discipline on road, excellent. Convoy arrived at Djon at 1800 and was bivouaced for the night at a regular convoy bivouac park. Refueling was accomplished and men prepared for the night.

MONDAY NOV 13, 1944.

LOCATION: DJON AND ENROUTE TO DESTINATION.

TROOPS: NO CHANGE.

ACTION: At 0730 convoy continued march under adverse weather conditions. Snow having fallen during the night. Progress was slow but head of column reached guide point at appointed time. The Bn C.O. closed into bivouac area at vicinity of Portioux where balance of Bn which had preceded motor convoy was set up. All vehicles in column arrived at destination.

ONLY REPORT CONTINUED.

TUESDAY: NOV. 14, to FRIDAY NOV 17, 1944.

LOCATION: PORTIOUX LA VERRIERIE

TROOPS: -NO CHANGE.

ACTION: Bn CP and message center was set up and Bn immediately began maintenance of weapons and vehicles; completion of drawing of were made. Firing was conducted for those tanks which had not previously done so. All vehicles were completely stowed for combat. TAT equipment was loaded for storage and personal equipment of duffel bags and one barracks bag was stored. At 2200 the Bn received alert orders prepared to move on 4 hours notice. At 0600 following morning, no word was received and Bn remained in present location

SATURDAY NOV 18, Sunday NOV 19, 1944.

LOCATION: PORTIOUX LA VERRIERIE.

TROOPS : 48th minus C

ACTION : The Bn remained on the alert for further movement orders. C48 was attached to 62nd and moved out Sunday. The Bn minus continued minor preparations for movement and held themselves on alert

MONDAY NOV. 20, 1944.

LOCATION: PORTIOUX and vicinity ST. REMY.

TROOPS: 48 (-), A-62, 1-C-125, 3-B-94, 1B500.

ACTION: At 1400, the Bn with attachments moved from present location to the vicinity of St. Remy where the column was halted due to troops in front having been delayed. At dark, orders were to remain in column on the road for the night. Trains were brought up and refueling was accomplished.

Tuesday NOV. 21, 1944.

LOCATION: Vicinity St. Remy, Hambervillers, Baecarat.

Troops: No Change.

Action: Bn remained in place until orders from CCA at approx 1300 ordered our move (see overlay #1). at approx 0200 in the morning column halted in vicinity of Blamont and remained for balance of the night.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 22, 1944.

LOCATION: Vicinity Blamont, Laffrimballe.

TROOPS: No Change.

Action: The Bn continued its advance meeting light resistance in form of road blocks and after clearing them out, continued to the village of Laffrimballe where CP was located for the night.

THURSDAY NOV. 23, 1944.

LOCATION: Vicinity of Abreschviller.

TROOPS: NO CHANGE.

ACTION: At 0700 the Bn and attachments moved from Laffrimballe continuing its advance thru the mountain road encountering more road blocks and in addition machine gun and sniper fire. After brief delays while road blocks were cleared the Bn halted on the road and refueling and resupply was accomplished. Cp was located on the road for the night.

FRIDAY: NOV. 24, 1944.

LOCATION: Vicinity Grandfontaine.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION: Advance continued and met heavier resistance in road blocks defended by heavy fire by MG and Bazooka's. Brief stop was made at farm house and then Cp moved on stopping at temporary point for Ammo and gasoline. Several prisoners were taken at this point. At 1800 Cp and trains moved up and joined column where resupply was effected and column remained for night on road.

MONTHLY REPORT CONTINUED.

SATURDAY NOV. 25, 1944.

LOCATION: Grandfontaine, Shirmeck.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION: At 1000 the column moved forward after passage was made over portion of road which had been blown. Resistance was encountered along the route and sniper fire encountered in small villages. At 1500 the advance guard entered the outskirts of Shirmeck and after clearing the houses of snipers, the CP was brought forward with the trains and refueling and resupply was immediately started. Contact was made at this junction with the 103rd. A few prisoners were taken and additional snipers cleared from houses. Security was set up and the Bn plus attachments remained here for the night.

SUNDAY NOV. 26, 1944.

LOCATION: Shirmeck.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION: At 0800 the column moved into Shirmeck outposting the village and maintenance was immediately begun on all vehicles and weapons. CP was set up in a Chateau. At about 1700, orders were received to move out; after preparations were made and the command half-track had moved to head of column, orders were changed and personnel returned to Chateau where CP was again set up for the night. Plans were drawn for next day's operations.

MONDAY NOV 27, 1944.

LOCATION: Vic: Valeff and Meistratzheim.

TROOPS: Add 69th AFA.

ACTION: At 0800 head of column crossed IF and advanced toward Obernai thence to vicinity of Valeff where Bn again met heavy resistance of heavily protected road blocks and artillery fire. After several conflicts, Bn withdrew to vicinity of Meistratzheim where CP was set up in village and outposted for night.

TUESDAY NOV 28, 1944.

LOCATION: VIC: BARR

TROOPS: No change

Action: Bn moved toward Obernai and continued advance toward Barr. Light resistance was encountered along the route consisting of defended road blocks and bazooka fire. Upon reaching Barr well concealed AT guns opened fire on our tanks inflicting great loss in men and equipment. AT's were protected by small arms fire and bazooka fire. On contacting the LCO, with his authority the Bn regrouped outside the village of Barr and on completion of same, withdrew to Bernaviller where CP was set up in a school house and the village was outposted and security replaced by Div on this date.

WEDNESDAY NOV 29, 1944.

LOCATION: VIC: BARR

TROOPS: No change.

Action: Again the Bn advanced toward Barr; passing through Heiligenstein and after being held up for road blocks and very light resistance Barr was entered and outposted. The AT guns and their protection had withdrawn and only slight sniper fire was found.

UNSUB: Y, 1. 31, 1944
 LOCATION: 1. 31, 1944.
 ACTION: 1. 31, 1944.

The tank remained at Lorr while the tank proceeded further south still meeting road blocks and artillery fire. Portiers of the road was found mined. An ammo dump was captured and on the outskirts of Andlau and bridge had been blown. When it had been replaced by the engineers the tank moved into the village and refueling and resupply was made.

Overlay #1,2,3 show the route of the tank on from the time it departed from Portieux until arriving at Scherwiller.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

HEADQUARTERS 48TH INF DIV
APO 446 L. E. BAY

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

DATE: December 1, , 1944.

PLACE: Vicinity Andleau, Sherwiller.

Troops: 48 (-) A-62, B-94.

Action: FC#9 from CCA called for orders to continue the advance to the Selestat area at 0815.

The Bn CO issued the oral field order for his troops to continue the attack on Selestat and at 0800 the Bn and attached units moved out. The CP closed at Andleau and opened on the road maintaining contact with the advance guard and keeping higher headquarters posted as to our progress.

Road blocks were encountered shortly after crossing the RD but were disposed of and then at 1035 the advance elements encountered fire of large caliber but no casualties were involved. The column also located several mines in the road and the Engineers were called to clear them.

In the late afternoon higher headquarters instructed our CO not to cross the line east west Scherwillersheim. This was complied with and at this point our Bn made contact with friendly troops in this vicinity.

The CP was advised that Sherwiller still was not completely routed of the enemy but would advise us when to move the trains and Bqs ahead. At 2030 the CP closed into Sherwiller and Bqs set up. All companies reported closing in to the town and security was immediately instituted. Message was sent to CCA that the Bn plus attachments was closed in and resupply and refueling accomplished.

DATE: December 2, 3, 1944.

PLACE: Sherwiller, France.

Troops: No Change.

Action: Receiving no orders from higher headquarters as to continuing the advance on Selestat, the Bn remained in Sherwiller conducting maintenance and cleaning of weapons and vehicles.

Outposts were maintained during the day and night in the event of a counterattack. Route reconnaissance was made to the south for possible routes of advance and contact was still maintained with the friendly troops in our area.

At 1600, 3 Dec, The Bn CO received orders to proceed from our present location to the town of Melsheim for the purpose of regrouping and reorganizing. The route of march was provided by CCA and overlay were immediately made and the company commanders were called at which time Bn CO issued the march order.

IP time was 1700 and the leading elements proceeded to our destination. Blackout was enforced but driving lights could be used on Bn order. Our original area was in the vicinity of Hochfelden but thru some misunderstanding our town was changed the last minute to Melsheim and consequently the Bn did not close until 0400, morning of the 4th.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

DATE: December 4, 5, 1944.

PLACE: Melsheim, France.

Troops: 48th, 3-C-125.

Action: On orders of the Bn commander, continued maintenance of vehicles and weapons were begun. In addition all crews were instructed to sandbag their tanks for additional security against enemy tank and bazooka fire. Trains were brought forward and a complete resupply was completed. Bn maintenance was also brought forward and began such work as their echelon called for.

Duffle bags were also brought forward by Service Co and men were instructed to get such clothing and incidentals as they deemed usable from the bags before returning them.

No movement orders were received from CCA but the Bn was placed on a four hour alert at which time they were to be prepared to move in any direction or such mission as it was called upon.

DATE: December 6, 1944.

PLACE: Melsheim, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: Little activity was carried on to-day. Church services were arranged for both Catholic and Protestant in the afternoon. These services were a memorial in tribute to the men lost in action at Barr and past engagements.

In the evening movies were attempted to be shown but difficulty with the sound mechanism warranted another showing the following day.

Company commanders meeting was held at 1800 and the Bn CO discussed several points with his officers.

The Ln officer brought orders from his headquarters that the Bn was reverting to CCB effective today.

DATE: December 7, 8, 9, 10, 1944.

PLACE: Melsheim, France.

Troops: 48th only.

Action: For the next four days mentioned above continued maintenance of weapons and vehicles were carried on. Sand bagging was completed on most all vehicles. Personnel continued the cleaning of cloths and themselves. Showers were provided for them at Hochfelden and schedules were provided for transportation of all men desiring to go.

Sunday, church services were held for both Catholic and Protestant and a good attendance was accorded the chaplain.

One enlisted man, Private Schmidt of company C was accidentally shot and killed by one of his buddies. As per SOP an investigation was immediately begun and a board appointed.

Company commanders meetings were held each night and general subjects discussed to the CO's.

Division notified us that the General would arrive early in the morning to decorate Sgt Coprini for recognition at Barr.

DATE: December 11, 1944.

PLACE: Melsheim, France.

TROOPSL 48 (-) A19, 2B125, 2D94.

Action:

I-A-L

ACTION: At 0830 the Commanding General, 14th Armored Division and his chief of staff arrived at our headquarters to conduct a brief ceremony and pin the Bronze Star on Sgt Comprini for his meritorious service at Barr France. The 48th staff were especially proud in that this decoration was the first in the division. In front of Bn Hq and before the men of company D, Lt. Col. Stephens read the General Orders published by their Hqs and then General Smith stepped forward and proudly pinned the medal on Sgt Comprini.

At the company commanders meeting plans were discussed and orders issued for the harassing mission or deception movement ordered by CCB. This consisted of a few tanks from the line companies to move out at dusk to designated towns east of Hochfelden. Their mission was to move up and down the streets beginning at approximately 2000 thereby giving the impression of a large vehicle movement or supply train. This ruse was also carried out by wheeled vehicles also. The Bn half-track moved out with the tanks and located in one of the villages with the mission of sending out dummy messages to our platoons creating another impression of companies reporting in as closing in and resupply completed. At the break of dawn all vehicles returned to Melsheim.

DATE: December 12, 1944

Place: Melsheim, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: FC#2 CCB gave the CC the mission of moving north east to counter any enemy thrust coming from the north between Haguenau and the 103 Div boundary.

The Bn was placed on one hour alert and at 0700 all vehicles were ready to move on moments notice. The Bn CO had issued the march order previously and also order of march. The Bn remained in this position all day but no orders arrived.

The IG arrived at noon and quarters were set up that he might interview any man who cared to call on him.

The Ln O then brought information that we would not move until possibly the following day.

At 1800 the Bn ordered a meeting of all officers in the battalion which was a closed meeting; the discussion not being known.

DATE: December, 13, 1944.

Place: Melsheim and vicinity Haguenau.

Troops: No change.

Action: Bn was placed on one hour alert last night and approximately 0100 received orders to move out at 0230. Company commanders were called at 0130 and the march order was issued. At 0220 the advance elements moved out under lights and the following units moving out by liaison. Blackout was put into effect at Monnerheim. The column began the march through the Haguenau forest and at daybreak the column was halted because of congested traffic and one way bridge. The CP remained all morning on the road in the forest and at about 1300 began to move by bounds slowly out of the forest thru Surbourg thence east to Neiderbetsdorf where the CP was established. The Bn closed in at 1800. No action was encountered during the day and no enemy sighted. Security was put out and message that the Bn had closed was sent to CCB. The Bn CO called a company commanders meeting and issued the march order for the following day. No orders were received for the following day.

DATE: December 14, 1944.
Place: Neiderbetschdorf, France.
Troops: No change.
Action: The mission we are now in the process of carrying out is to continue our advance on Salmbach to clear the enemy of this vicinity. At 0130 our infantry was ordered to revert to its parent unit for the day and his outposts were assumed by B Co. The Bn was prepared to continue its assault but movement orders had not as yet been received until the Ln O arrived at 1100 to advise the CO to move out at 1245. Advance elements proceeded thru Hatten, Buhl, Croettsviller and on towards Salmbach. Enemy resistance was encountered near the objective and after severe fighting by the infantry and under intense enemy artillery the advance guard entered the town of Salmbach and cleared it of snipers and drove the enemy back. The Cp was set up also under fire of enemy artillery and security put out. Trains, B, D & Hq Co set up their CP in Oberlauterbach. A German deserter was found hiding in the house where our CP was established and after continued questioning was released.

DATE: December 15, 1944.
Place: Salmbach, France.
Troops: No change.
Action: The town of Salmbach received heavy artillery fire all during the night but no casualties were reported. During the day our guns pounded the villages of Schaidt, Breckenfield and Winfield. Our outpost received machine gun fire from the north and reports revealed that German patrols were evident in the woods to the north. Several prisoners were taken and some killed. The prisoners were questioned and then sent back to the PW collection point. Bn CO had his commanders in at 1800 and plans for continued outpost and patrol duty were set up.

DATE: December 16, 1944.
Place: Salmbach, France.
Troops: No change.
Action: Little action was received today. Occasional artillery was received and countered with our tanks and assault guns. No new orders were received from higher headquarters and so the Bn continued to maintain their outposts and patrols. Additional patrols were organized to reconnoiter and scout the woods to the north in an effort to obtain all information they could. The assault guns were set up in Segen and continued their indirect fire on the towns to our north.

DATE: December 17, 1944.
Place: Salmbach, France.
Troops: No change.
Action: The situation remained the same. At noon orders were received to send out four patrols north from Salmbach to reconnoiter the woods and approach as near Schaidt as possible in an effort to find out what resistance or obstacles were confronting us in the event of an attack to the north. The patrols moved out on four different routes at 1500 and reported on the hour of their progress. Several prisoners were sent back by the patrols and questioned before sending them to the PW point



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: December 18, 1944.

Place: Salmbach, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: The Bn was paid a visit by the CO of GCB and discussed the situation with the Bn CO.

Little activity was recorded during the day and at 1400 the usual patrols departed for continued reconnaissance of the woods to the north. Patrols reported by phase lines of their progress and one of them encountered a few road blocks but no evidence of them being defended.

Two of the four routes were found favorable for medium tank movement. Enemy patrols were sighted heading towards Salmbach; no doubt with the same purpose as our patrols. Our patrols did not engage them but did receive machine gun fire. No casualties were reported.

Greenebaume task force reported evidence of mines in roads and also booby traps; the force also reported pill boxes in their locality. Our assault guns and tanks were still in position for indirect fire and several missions were fired.

Friendly planes were sighted and it was reported they were on bombing and strafing mission over Germany.

Outposts were cautioned to be on the alert for enemy infiltration.

Several promotions of officers in higher headquarters.

(Major Lucas to Lt Col).

DATE: December 19, 1944.

Place: Salmbach, France

Troops: 48 (-) A-88, B-94 (-) 10125.

Action: Today the Bn passed from the control of GCB to GCA.

We were ordered to move to the vicinity of Schweighofen with the mission of relieving the 25th Tank Bn. Their position was at Kapsweyer.

The Bn CO and company commanders departed at 0700 to contact the CO of the 25th to gather all information necessary preparatory to moving the Bn in place.

at 1115 the G-3 issued the march order and the Bn closed their CP in Salmbach and opened up on the road.

Each company went into position and the 25th moving out individually.

B Co reverted to GCA reserve, and the trains and B Co remained in Schweighofen and the balance of the Bn moved to Kapsweyer where A Co and infantry outposted our sector. The forward CP closed in at 1700 and platoons posted as security and D Co outposted the CP. The Infantry digging in. These two towns are both in Germany and the forward CP approximately 1000 yards from the Siegfried Line.

The assault guns were ordered in position in the vicinity of the rear CP ready to fire on call. Intense artillery fire was received on movement to our positions. All crossroads and land marks were zeroed in with enemy artillery.

Patrols were immediately established to probe the line in an effort to obtain information of its constructions and defense.

The mortars were set up in position in the vicinity of the rear CP but the following day were moved forward and assigned new positions.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: December 20, 1944.

PLACE: Kapsweyer, Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0800 the supporting artillery, tank guns and A/G's began firing direct and indirect towards the Siegfried line. Several pill boxes were sighted and taken under fire. Intermittent counter fire was received. One 155 was brought up to fire direct at various pill boxes. This was also countered with enemy artillery. Patrols were again sent out to reconnoiter the line. The Outposts of the town was a 24hour affair and troops were alternated to relieve the men for a short rest. The Germans usually countered with their guns at any movement of tanks or heavy vehicles as all cross roads and possible OP's were zeroed in. Platoons were resupplied at night by a tank with the supplies on the rear. This drew fire but no casualties were reported. Patrols which were sent out at dusk usually reported in at midnight giving a narrative of their findings which was immediately reported to higher headquarters. In the afternoon the CO of the 14th paid our CP a short visit getting a slant on the situation.

DATE: December 21, 1944.

PLACE: Kapsweyer, Germany.

TROOPS: B94 reverted to parent unit.

Action: At 0730 our guns again opened up with heavy concentrations on the German line. This was as usual countered with light mortar fire and artillery. During the day little action was reported other than the light fire received at any movement of our vehicles. During the day the CP was visited by the Co COA and operations discussed with the Bn CO. Shellrep was instituted which was a routine report called in to COA on all shelling received in our area. Time, direction, number of rounds, type of fire and coordinates were to be reported. From this procedure, it was believed that some guns were silenced by possible pinpointing the guns. Patrols were again sent out at dark and both reported in at midnight with no new information.

DATE: December 22, 1944.

Place: No Change.

Troops; No Change.

Action: At 0800 our artillery and mortars again opened up on the enemy and counter fire was returned. New OP's were established and communications set up. At noon we were informed that our Bn plus attachments was to be relieved by the 215 Inf Regt. This was to be coordinated by the CO's of units involved. So during the day the CO of the 315 arrived at the CP to get the details from our CO. Today several changes were made in the Staff. Lt Blom was relieved as A/G platoon leader and transferred to Service Co. Lt Witt was made Communication officer and Lt. Greenebaum was transferred from D Co to Bn Hq and appointed S-2.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Mr Culpeper arrived at the CP at 1000 and had with him 5 officer and 15 enlisted men replacements.

They were all interviewed by the battalion commander and assigned to various companys. All companies then called for their new men and were taken to their units.

At 2100 the Bn received orders to move the rear CP and all troops located there to Preuschdorf. These orders were phoned to the rear and a march order issued. at 0030 message was received that the rear CP was closing and opening up on the road.

DATE: December 23, 1944.

Place: Kapsweyer, Germany, Preuschdorf, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0800 the forward CP began movement to the rear (Schweighofen) and after all troops and equipment had been shuttled the CP closed and everything was moved to the rear except two platoons of A which remained on outpost until releived by the 315 which would be done at night.

Under cover of darkness the balance of the Bn moved to Preuschdorf and CP established.

Outposts were set up for all avenues of approach and each company assigned a sector of responsibility.

DATE: December 24, 1944.

Place: Preuschdorf, France.

Troops: 48th (-) A-68.

Action: Reveille at 0800. Troops immediately began maintenance of weapons and vehicles. Communications were set up with all companies and also lines to CCA. Administrative details are immediately set up and functioning began.

Preparations were made by various units for special Christmas programs and entertainment. Movies were held in the village church and several bags of mail arrived including packages which boosted the morale of the men and strengthened the Christmas spirit. Class VI came in for the officers and the monthly IX ration of beer for the enlisted men was arranged for.

Church Services were held for all personnel by the Bn chaplain

DATE: December 25, 1944

Place: Preuschdorf, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: Christmas day was spent very quietly by the Bn. Men continued their maintenance of vehicles and weapons and at noon everyone enjoyed a good turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Special Church services were held for both Catholic and Protestant and movies were shown at night.

At 1900 a civilian was brought to the CP and questioned regarding the finding of a german grenade. He was turned over to the 22's and taken to the 45 Div Hqs.

Several more bags of mail and packages were received by the Bn and distributed to the men. Most every man either received a package or letter and the Christmas spirit was generally excellent.

DATE: December 27, 28, 1944.

PLACE: Preuschoorf, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0800 one half of officers and selected enlisted men attended the division Sabotage school conducted by 7th Army in the methods and uses of Saboteurs. The other half of the officers and addition enlisted men attended the afternoon class.

Lecture and demonstration was given to all personnel.

During the day men continued the maintenance of weapons and vehicles and cleaning up of cloths and equipment was carried out.

25 replacements were received on the 27th. All men were interviewed by the Bn CO and after a short talk each man was placed in the various companies to fill existing T/O's.

Showers were provided for the men at Soultz and trucks shuttled the men who desired to go.

A sort training program was drawn up for the refreshing of the new men just received in the battalion.

During the morning the battalion was placed on a 2 hour alert and the bivouac party was alerted to move out on division order.

The Ln Off arrived at 1730 with orders to move at 1830 to the vicinity of Drillingen France across the Voges mountains with the mission of reserve in the XV Corps area to back up and repel any suspected counter-attack in this area. The bivouac parties having moved out, the Bn CO called the company commanders and the verbal march order was issued.

The advance guard crossed the IP at 1830 each company following in order by maintaining liaison with the preceding unit.

The CP closed at 1815 and the march to the destination was carried out with no casualties. Brief halts were scheduled for maintenance but most of the units arrived with out using this time.

The CP opened in Drillingen at 2345 with some of the other units having to billet in nearby towns where security was immediately set up for each town that our troops occupied.

DATE: December 29, 30, 31, 1944.

PL CE: Drillingen, France.

Troops: No change.

Action: Service company sent for the gas masks on division order as it was known that German prisoners when captured were carrying theirs. This was purely a precautionary measure.

Route reconnaissance of the roads leading north from our location was immediately sent out to bring any road information which would deem necessary in the event of a move. This was done on division order. In compliance with GCA TM #6, S-3 drew up plans for a tank-infantry attack cross country.

The 30th another patrol was sent out with the same mission of reconnoitering roads to the north to repel any counter-attack.

Balance of the day was spent in 1st echelon maintenance and men continuing to remain on the alert for possible movement.

The S-1 and S-2 and S-4 made trip to rear echelon to conduct necessary business and to obtain officers pay.

The CO and S-3 plus company commanders made ground reconnaissance of terrain where tank-infantry problem was to be held. They were visited by the CO GCA while on this mission.

strategic points on the other side of the mountains; reconnoitering the terrain and possible holding points and any commanding ground. These reports were all then turned in to GSA. The last day of the year was spent in the town of Drillingen and little activity was reported in our sector. Outposts remained on the alert continuously throughout the night.

During the month of December two battlefield promotions were noted in the Battalion. S/Sgt Camprini of B Co and T/Sgt Chernoyer of B Co. Both men were commissioned along with several others in the division in a brief ceremony held in front of division headquarters. Both officers are now platoon leaders and doing an excellent service to their country.

Also during the month of December the following named enlisted men were promoted to grades indicated. To Sergeant: Cpl Jack L. Smith; Cpl Philip L. Balanger; Pvt William J. Spellman; Pvt Harry J. Lockensmith; Cpl Wallace L. Campbell; Cpl Charles A. Maier; Cpl Owen C. Keeling; T/5 Louis Milojevich; Pfc John M. Henry; Pfc Robert G. Selyea; To Technician fourth grade: T/5 Perry E. Smith; T/5 Julian J. Lora; T/5 Robert J. Jackson; To Corporal: Pfc John L. Hopkins; Pfc Edward A. Vincent; Pvt Bruce E. Alford; Pfc Carlos Malacitas; Pvt James L. Price; Pvt George A. Wheeler; Pvt Jack E. Gardner; Pfc John B. Chisholm; Pfc Kenneth R. Breuk; Pvt Jack E. Reinhart; Pvt Edward G. Elden; Pvt Harry D. Greer; Pvt Arthur A. McInihad; Pvt Marshall L. Todd; To Technician fifth grade: Pfc George L. Lebbancz; Pvt Harry E. Larns; Pfc Vernon E. Janssen; Pfc Paul E. Van Dyke; Pvt Gregory L. Linter; Pvt Robert J. Wiersema; Pvt Carlton E. Baurum; Pfc Raymond G. Arnold; Pfc Ray M. Danton; Pfc Hugh J. Hunter.

In recognition of wounds received in action, the following named men were awarded the Purple Heart in a brief ceremony held in the CP at Drillingen: Sgt Leo J. Caudette; T/4 Angelo J. Attaglia; Cpl Wilbur Kramer; Cpl Barry Greer Jr.; Cpl Elmer L. Shipp; T/5 Ray N. Denton; These were awarded under General Orders 22, Hd 1st Armored Division, dated 18 December 1944.

OVERLAY ATTACHED SHOWING ROUTE FOR MONTH
OF DECEMBER.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 48TH TANK BATTALION
AFC 446, U. S. ARMY

M-O-N-I-T-H-L-Y R-E-P-O-R-T

DATE: January 1, 1945.

PLACE: Drulingen, France.

TROOPS: 48 (-) 1-C-94, A-68, 2-C-125.

ACTION: To begin the new year, this Bn after spending several days in a status of reserve of 15th Corp was alerted because of a suspected counter attack to the north of Drulingen. No companies were actually alerted to move but Hqs were notified that orders could be expected at any time.

at 0600 CC A Hqs called by phone and alerted us to move on moments notice to area to be designated. Ln officers were called and received the march order from the Bn CO on his return from higher headquarters. 48th Bn marches to assembly area vicinity Lorentzen prepared to counterattack and destroy several small groups simultaneously or large groups of armor using full strength between east boundary IV Corps and Sarre River.

At 1145 the CP closed at Drulingen and opened on the road. (march order and allied papers will be filed with log for day). During the march the only activity noted was two enemy planes possibly attempting to strafe the column but were beat off by surrounding AA units and our own weapons.

The Bn closed in the vicinity of Lorentzen and Hqs set up in town.

Almost on arrival at our assembly area, further orders were received that this Bn would be relieved by the 2nd DB in present area. No detailed arrangements were specified on the switch of units but on closing in our area company commanders were called and the plans for movement and return to VII Corp area were discussed.

Message from CC A by Ln Off advised this Hqs that Bn plus attachments would move on the morning of the 2nd to the vicinity of Ingwiller France rejoining the 14th AD.

The town of Lorentzen being filled with other troops, our personnel was forced to bivouac in the outskirts of town to spend the night.

DATE: January 2, 1945.

PLACE: Neuwiller, France.

TROOPS: 48(-) A-68

ACTION: At 0630 company commanders were called and the march order issued for the Bn to march to the vicinity of Reidheim rejoining the 14th AD in this sector. 0912 the CP closed at Lorentzen and opened up on the road. After much congestion at a critical crossroads in the outskirts of town, in conjunction with the movement of the 2nd DB coming into town, the Bn and attached unit moved to their newly assigned area.

During the march orders were received that a new mission had been assigned. 1348 the CP opened in Reidheim and the company commanders were immediately called to issue the new field order. The new mission called for outposting in the vicinity of Neuwiller with preventing the enemy from infiltration from the woods to the north.

The 48th moved immediately at 1645 to Neuwiller closing there at 2000 where security and outposts were established for the night.

DATE: January 3, 1945

PLACE: Neuwiller, France.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION; Operations for the day began at 0730. Outposts were checked. At 1000 Major from 45th division called at CP and claimed we were in his CP. The Bn CO contacted higher headquarters of the mixup and was advised they would contact our division. Major called Corp Hqs (45th div) to definitely determine his status in the case. During this discussion, orders were received that this Bn would move immediately to Reidheim and outpost the town and nearby vicinity occupying adjacent towns with our troops.

The Bn closed the CP at 1245 and proceeded to our new destination. We closed in at 1455 and all outposts set up in each town for all around security.

Company commanders were called for a brief meeting and briefing of the immediate front was given. During the discussion, Ln Off from higher headquarters at 1930 arrived with information that the division was regrouping in the vicinity of Phalsburg and that movement orders would no doubt follow. Two possible routes were contemplated on the move and both were included in the probable march order.

The Chaplain gave out scarfs and sweaters to the company commanders for their men through the courtesy of the Red Cross.

Immediately thereafter the staff held a brief meeting after which the Bn CO held a short discussion with NCO's of the Hqs personnel.

Three men arrived in the meantime; two from the hospital and one a reinforcement and were properly assigned to company's by the CO.

DATE: January 4, 1945.

PLACE: Reidheim, France.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION; Although the Bn was on the alert for movement to the vicinity of Phalsburg where the division contemplated assembling, no definite orders were received. Our outposts were maintained and security checked by S-2. Several civilians were questioned as to proper passes and their destinations.

At 1235 CCA placed the Bn on a 3 hour alert status and ask for a training schedule to cover time spent in readiness for future movement.

The S-2 called meeting of orientation officers and a general briefing of the fronts were given along with tips on conducting training and information which should be given to the troops regarding situations. At 1830 the company commanders were called and additional outpost duties regarding security was given.

S-1 held a short orientation for all AM of Bn Hqs plus several notes of interest to all men.

At 2000 the outposts were checked by the field OD and a report submitted to the Bn CO at the close of the day.

DATE: January 5, 6, 1945.

PLACE: Reidheim, France.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION: During the day, the prescribed training was carried out by all companies in compliance with higher headquarters.

The S-3 made a foot reconnaissance of suitable terrain for tank-infantry deployment as called for also by higher headquarters.

~~C-M-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

The executive officer attended a meeting at CCA at which time plans were given to him for three possible routes of attack from our present position. During his absence, the Ln Off from CCA to Div called at our CP and discussed the same plans with the Bn CO.

At 1800 the company commanders were called and all three plans were thoroughly gone over and all were made familiar with routes and locations. During the process of the meeting the higher headquarters alerted our Bn to move on short notice under plan #2. At this point the Bn CO immediately issued his march order and all companies were alerted for the move.

The Ln Off brought final information on time of movement and at 2215 the CP at Reidheim was closed and opened in column.

DATE: January 7, 1945.

PLACE: Surbourg France.

TROOPS: 48 (-) 1C94, 2-C-94, A-68.

ACTION: The vicinity of Surbourg France which was designated in orders as our CP was occupied at approximately 0415 and security immediately established. Little rest was obtained by all personnel as orders from CCA ordered a rapid reconnaissance of the surrounding terrain to locate ground for a holding force composed principally of infantry and artillery and for tank attack action through the holding force. This mission was given to our hcn platoon and results immediately submitted to CCA on completion of the reconnaissance.

At 1330 we were ordered to alert one medium tank company for movement to support 3rd Bn 315 and A-48 was given this mission; they moved out at 1400.

A-68 reverted to CCA reserve and 2-C-94 reverted to troop control. Artillery overlay concentrations were issued to all units and

check points for CP's and reconnaissance by 94th. The Bn CO was called to meeting of TF Wahl in Surbourg to complete plans of repelling C/A in our immediate vicinity. No troops of ours were included in the TF.

Baker company was ordered to prepare one platoon of tanks for defensive fires on general line north south Surbourg.

A Co was reverted to 48 control and withdrew to vicinity of Kuhlendorf.

DATE: January 8,9, 1945.

PLACE: Vicinity Surbourg, France.

TROOPS: 48th

ACTION: Little action on the 8th was reported. Several plans for the repelling of a counter attack were drawn up by our S-3 and plans submitted to CCA for approval. Company commanders were called in to familiarize them with said plans in the event of committal. at 0555 the 9th CO CCA ordered the alert of company A again. CO and Ex of 48th reported to TF Hqs for further orders.. Following is activities of 48th as written by S-3.

A-48 moved to vic Kittershoofen at 0930, with mission of assisting 42nd Infantry to straighten lines, was relieved of mission at 1030 and returned to Kuhlendorf. It was sent back on same mission at 1330. Company Commander and S-3 contacted Battalion Commander of 42nd Infantry at Hatten at 1400 to arrange for assistance. Unknown number of tanks were reported at that time to be flanking town to south and personnel carriers and tanks flanking on north. A-48 began arriving in assembly area east of Kittershofen at 1415.

At approximately 1420 1st platoon went into position on south flank east of Rittershoffen to counter threat of Nazi southern envelopment, took the tanks under fire destroying and burning five of medium size. One platoon went into position on south flank west of Rittershoffen and third platoon on north flank east of Rittershoffen. Situation then was stable for 48th until 1700. At 1600 48th Battalion Commander contacted Regimental Commander 42nd Infantry and a coordinated attack was arranged with one platoon of tanks and one platoon of infantry attacking to east on either side of Hatten. Attack jumped off at 1710. Attack on north side of Hatten met little opposition, reached its objective by 1830. Attack on south side encountered some resistance, knocked out one tank, one personnel carrier and one staff car, reaching its objective by approximately 1845.

Relief of A-48 was arranged at 2030 and began at approximately 2100, with a TD platoon and an infantry company outposting each side of Hatten and tying in with 42nd Infantry in Hatten.

48 (-) A moved approximately 1430 to Heiderbetschdorf in reserve, moved back to former position, Bn Bq & HQ Co, B-48, D-48 establish HQR east of Hatten using A-48 south of Hatten and two companies infantry north of Hatten.

Number of german tanks destroyed in engagement was 6 plus personnel carrier and staff car. Number of enemy estimated killed 25.

DATE: January 10, 1945.

PLACE: Vicinity Rittershoffen, Hatten France.

TROOPS: No change.

ACTION; Operations for the day consisted mainly of establishing HQR east of Hatten. Narrative of action for the day by S-3 follows:

A-48 was committed at 0630 from their position on east edge of Rittershoffen with mission of moving to east south of Hatten and capturing the terrain on either side of the road southeast of Hatten. Mission was changed shortly after the attack jumped off in order to counter threat of enemy attack to west north of Hatten. Bulk of A-48 moved to position northeast of Rittershoffen leaving remainder covering enemy southern approach. A-48 then assisted infantry in repelling attack of 200 infantry at 0830 reinforced at 0930 by 6 tanks. Number of infantry casualties inflicted is unknown, one tank was knocked out with one probable. A-48 remained in position until relieved at 1630.

At 1150 remainder of 48th closed in Heiderbetschdorf area by order of higher headquarters. At 1500 B-48 had gone into battle position directly south of Rittershoffen. At 1530 C-48 had moved into battle position north and east of Rittershoffen.

At 1550 B-48 attacked to east through gap between Hatten and woods to south. Attack moved as planned until approximately 1645 when hostile fire from south edge of Hatten knocked out Company Commander's tank and communications on two platoon leaders tanks failed. Four tanks were hit by fire from Hatten and from direct east. Communications reestablished by 1730 and attack was resumed. Message received from higher headquarters directing withdrawal at 1735. Withdrawal accomplished with all tanks to Sarbourg.

At 1800 C-48 attacked to east and north of Hatten with objective of seizing ground on either side of road to northeast of Hatten. Fire was received from north edge of Hatten at approximately 1700 disabling three tanks, and killing one tank commander. Six enemy tanks were definitely hit with AP ammunition which did not ricochet but extent of damage was not known. Unit was withdrawn beginning at 1730 to outpost position on edge of Rittershoffen.

To Sarbourg; C-48 To Sarbourg, where it
reverted to 68 AIO CONTROL. PLANS WERE DRAWN
OP FOR TANK INFANTRY ATTACK AT DAYLIGHT TO

The Bn CP withdrew to their rear CP in Surbourg for the night and the town was outposted as originally prescribed. Extent of casualties in personnel and vehicles (enemy) is undetermined for no accurate could be made.

DATE: January 11, 1945

PLACE: Surbourg, Vicinity Rittershoffen, Hatten, France.

TROOPS: 48th, A-68, B-68, 500.

ACTION: Fire fighting was encountered throughout the day with severe casualties dealt the enemy but not without loss of our own men and vehicles. A-48 being under control of the 68th was in position outside Kuhlendorf. C-48 took up their position north of Rittershoffen, B-48 flanking the town on the west.

C-48 supported by B-68 was ordered to launch an attack from their position north of Rittershoffen and route the enemy. Before the jump off could be accomplished a strong enemy attack was encountered and several tanks knocked out. Our artillery was called on for direct support and B-48 was also called on to furnish a section of tanks to aid the assault. The infantry was pinned down with small arms fire and could offer little resistance. Our A company took up firing positions west of the attack to give supporting fires. In late afternoon 68 called for our A which was attached to them to make contact with their Infantry in Rittershoffen. This information was reported to C Co and they readily accepted the additional fire power in the assault. Infantry continued to receive heavy mortar and artillery fire but was soon repelled by our own counter battery. At 1800 orders received from higher headquarters were to pull Bn minus A to east edge of Neiderbetschdorf and A-48 to vicinity of Kuhlendorf, their previous location. This was accomplished after coordinated plans with supporting Infantry dug in west of Rittershoffen to protect against a possible breakthrough. Outposts were established by B, C, D each flanking Neider and all possible routes of enemy attack. Rear CP remained in Surbourg.

DATE: January 12, 1945.

PLACE: Neiderbetschdorf, France.

TROOPS: 48 (-) A, B-68, A-68, 500.

ACTION: Field order for the following day was issued: enemy occupies south edge of Rittershoffen and unknown parts of Hatten, probably has tanks or anti-tank guns at both places. He may also have antitank defenses south of Hatten. Friendly troops hold west edge of Rittershoffen and unknown part of Hatten. Woods south are partly occupied by friendly troops extent to east unknown. CCA attacks at 0750 to assist in restoring main LR, 48th on right, 68 on left. 48th attacks south edge of Rittershoffen at 0750. B-68 attached will initially attack with armor in support. A-48 on north of Rittershoffen under control of 68 as yet remained in their present position being committed only on orders from 68. Reconnaissance of the area and vicinity to be attacked which was made by patrols the night before revealed that enemy strong points could be expected as fire was drawn from edge of woods and vicinity of railroad. Although friendly troops were supposed to be occupying woods to the south, no contact had been made and enemy had been reported instead.

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

Companies in 48th with their mission for the day: B-48 move from assembly area in woods south of Rittershoffen at 0800 to take positions SE Rittershoffen to cut Rittershoffen-Hatten road by fire.

C-48 attacks SE part Rittershoffen with B-48 through town.

D-48 protect right flank and rear of attacking elements.

Operations of 48th as written by S-3: 48th moved due east to attack at 0750. Artillery concentration fell on objective from 0750-0805. B-48 moved across LD at 0750, maneuvering rapidly to the right flank and brought fire on the objective southeast edge Rittershoffen, by 0800. Attached Inf Co moved up near objective but did not advance further because of enemy fire. C-48 moved in rear of infantry to support by fire. Fire of B-48 was lifted on order of Bn CO at 0840 and infantry assaulted objective, was repulsed by small arms fire. D-48 had moved into position on south flank to cover flank and rear, continued in this mission until 1650. B-48 remained in position south of objective ready to support with fire by order until 1700. From 1100 until 1300 one section of B-48 was engaged in maneuvering close in to right side of objective. Section lost one tank destroyed, the other two withdrew to company position on order. C-48 continued to support with fire from close range the entire day. One tank, C-48, lost by anti-tank fire.

At 1650 D-48 moved on order rapidly due east flanking Rittershoffen and Hatten, firing upon south edge Hatten. B-48 covered advance of D-48 by intense fire upon Hatten until 1700. At that time the bulk of B-48 moved to accompany D-48 continuing its fire upon Hatten. At 1720 withdrawal of D-48 and B-48 to outpost positions at Heiderbetschdorf began, being completed by 1920. Resupply completed during night.

During the day the rear CP was called up and ordered to establish their headquarters in the near vicinity of the forward CP.

Platoon C-94 was attached to 48th for such missions as patrol duty and additional ground security.

DATE: January 13, 1945.

PLACE: Heiderbetschdorf, France.

TROOPS: 48th plus A-68, 1-C-94

ACTION: The continued operations for the battalion coordinated troops in that vicinity was started at 0800: S-3 notes:

CO-ordinated attack of 48th Tk Bn, 68th Armd Inf Bn., and 3rd Bn of 315 Inf Regt started at 0800. C-48 with B-48 and 1A-68 moved forward fighting from house to house. Attack progressed slow but steady until 1000 when one tank was knocked out as it approached the church.

The movement was slowed down until approximately 1800 when house to house fighting continued again.

B-48 took firing positions along south side of Rittershoffen-Hatten road in position able to cut road with fire.

D-48 took up flank firing position in the vicinity of southwest corner of town.

Defense positions for the night were established by all companies by 1930. Patrols were established contacting CCR on right and 68 on left.

A counter-attack by flame throwing German tanks and some infantry started at 2130. Counter-attack was contained within hour by massed artillery directed jointly by the Battalion CO and Artillery Liaison officer.

DATE: January 14, 1945.

PLACES: Neiderbetschdorf, Rittershoffen, Hatten, France.

TROOPS: 48th, 1-A-68, B-68.

ACTION: Operations today consisted primarily of a defensive nature with the purpose of holding the ground taken yesterday in Rittershoffen and retaking those small sectors of town lost during last night's counterattack.

B-48 again had the mission of cutting the Rittershoffen-Hatten road with fire from positions southeast of Rittershoffen. They reached this position by 1300. At 1110 B Co fired on enemy infantry effectively at southeast edge of town.

D-48 again took firing positions along right flank of town with position of protective fire.

All elements of 1-A-68 and B-68 were regrouped under the command of 1st Lt Keeno who resumed mission of clearing assigned sector of town.

At 1415 a counterattack consisting of tanks and infiltrating infantry approached our positions. Our supporting artillery and direct fire of B-48 from their assigned positions contained the counter-attack so that by 1500 the situation was under control. Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon, 4th Pk Bn supported artillery fire on counter-attack.

Plan for defense of position were put into effect by 1900.

Orders were also received that a mine field would be laid by the 125th Engrs across the front of the 14th AD sector and the most forward elements. Overlays from CCA were received showing approximate location of field and this was distributed to all companies that they might immediately become familiar with the plans.

A brief note from CO CCA commending the 48th and supporting troops was received covering the past few days operations.

Intermittent enemy artillery was received in the vicinity of the Bn CP on several days and some coming very close shattering several windows and causing one death and three casualties across the street in Hq Co.

The supporting artillery (500) gave excellent cooperations to all calls for registrations and was instrumental in repelling several enemy counterattacks against our forces.

DATE: January 15, 16, 17, 1945.

PLACES: Neiderbetschdorf, Rittershoffen, Hatten, France.

TROOPS, 48th, 1-A-68, B-68, 500.

ACTIONS: During the next two days the operations consisted partially of a defensive or holding mission. Armor was deployed into position in and around the village of Rittershoffen with the prime mission of holding the ground which had been taken and to repel any enemy thrusts they might undertake. Due to the shortage of tanks and personnel through enemy action this was about the extent that our troops could be utilized. Several enemy thrusts were attempted and all repelled by supporting artillery and direct fire from our tanks. Infantry were dug in in holding positions but due to their heavy casualty list, their combined forces (armor and infantry) could not be used otherwise.

Operations of 48th for 17th by 5-31: A-48 moved at 0700 to assembly area NE Rittershoffen, prepared to swing N of Rittershoffen with A-315 to capture high ground immediately NE of Rittershoffen. Mission of A-315 was changed in early afternoon to assist B-315 in direct assault on NE end of Rittershoffen.

A-48 supported this attack; the attack received heavy artillery, mortar, automatic weapons, and AT fire. Attack was unsuccessful resulting in one tank disabled in A-48. A-48 was withdrawn at darkness to assembly area east of Kuhlendorf.

B-48 continued to support directly holding operations of 68 and 3-315 in town of Rittershoffen. C-48 moved to position SE of Rittershoffen to cut Rittershoffen-Matten road by tank fire, encountered desultory enemy fire, was withdrawn to assembly area E of Neiderbetschdorf at darkness.

D-48 covered right flank and rear of Bn until withdrawn at darkness to assembly area B of Neiderbetschdorf.

Security and outposts were immediately established for the night.

DATE: January 18, 19, 1945.

PLACE: Neiderbetschdorf, Rittershoffen, France.

TROOPS: No Change.

ACTION: Operations for 18th consisted mainly of being on the alert to move east to repel any counter-attack the enemy might try. A-48 posted two tanks on the Kuhlendorf-Rittershoffen road with balance of company in reserve B-48 furnished support on west edge of Rittershoffen to the 315 and 68 and C and D posted tanks on the Neiderbetschdorf-Rittershoffen road with the balance of their tanks in reserve all on immediate call in case of expected counterattack.

Orders received at 1315 from CC A to make attack by fire on north flank of Rittershoffen from 1400 to 1500 with 1 platoon A-48. These orders were given to A-48 CO and to the 500 artillery at 1345. The platoon moved into position and began to fire at 1445 and continued to assault with fire until 1515. Fire was placed on edges on northwest edge of Rittershoffen with Hs and APC. Hs was fired on superquick into trees around northwest edge of town. Cal 30 was fired on approaches to town and into buildings. Positive effects hard to determine but several buildings were destroyed or burned.

Some high velocity AT fire was received by the platoon during the action. The delay was due to the intense artillery falling in platoon assembly area. The change in time was coordinated with the 315 Infantry who had troops in the zone of action.

Outposts of tanks on roads leading from Rittershoffen were established and contact made by patrols each hour during the night.

DATE: January 20, 21, 1945.

PLACE: Neiderbetschdorf, France.

TROOPS: 18th,

ACTION: Little activity was noted during the 20th with only light artillery and mortar fire received. No contact with the enemy was made with our most forward elements. Late in the afternoon the Bn CO was called to CCA and on his return the Bn was informed that we would furnish the rear guard for the entire 18th Bn in withdrawal through the Hunsau forest to the vicinity of Wintzenheim where a new Bk would be established.

This movement under possible enemy infiltration was a mission with grave responsibility on the part of the Bn Commander. After a thorough discussion with staff and intense planning officers of the Bn, plus attachments needed for the maneuver were called in and an all night briefing was held.

All light vehicles and maintenance crews and company headquarters began the withdrawal late the night of the 20th and by 0500 the 21st nothing but the armor and Bn Hqs were left. Coordinated plans with demolition squads, infantry and tanks were made. This consisted of preparations for the blowing of bridges, trees prepared for felling, road blocks and the like and the close coordination that Infantry and Engineers would be picked up by our tanks just prior to the time demolitions would be set off.

B-48 was under Infantry control and withdrew under their command. C-48 protecting the northern sector near Kuhlendorf withdrew thru Schwabwiller. A-48 protecting the rear of the Bn was initially assembled east of Niderbetschdorf and was the last unit to withdraw. B-48 took up a position in vicinity of Scultz and furnished protection against possible breakthrough. All withdrawals by our forces were closely coordinated with the Engineers seeing that no bridges were blown or road blocks set up before our tanks had passed such critical points.

Bn Hqs withdrew by bounds; first setting up temporary CQ at Schwabwiller for approximately two hours; then on word from the Bn CO, proceeded to the south edge of Surbourg awaiting further orders from Bn CO and CCA. Traffic was congested all along the route through the Haguenau forest and could have resulted into a serious situation due to the conditions of the roads being extremely slippery had the enemy had knowledge of the movement.

With the 48th having the situation well in hand, orders from CCA came through to begin the withdrawal of our most rear elements; this was accomplished with great success and by late afternoon, our companies had pulled out from their assigned positions thru the forest and continued to march towards Mintzenheim.

Under the excellent planning and intelligence and cool determination of our Bn CO to accomplish this difficult operations, great praise must be bestowed upon him for the success and accomplishment of the mission.

At 1700 the Bn CO closed into Mintzenheim and all units had closed into their respective towns with security and outposts immediately set up.

DATE: January 22-31, 1945.

PLACE: Mintzenheim, Lupstein, France.

TROOPS: 48th

ACTION: For the next ten days hard work lay ahead for the men; maintenance of weapons and vehicles was of prime importance always with the possibility of alert orders being received. In order of priority units were ordered to initiate the following program: A positive program to insure repair, maintenance and replacement of weapons, vehicles and individual clothing and equipment. Provide a recreation and rehabilitation program for troops recently in combat. Continue training and indoctrination of replacements. Initiate training program outlined in previous Operations Memorandums.

Administrative matters took on a new zest for now the work for future operations, decorations, security, communications, training required by higher headquarters called for much paper work. Men were constantly busy with their duties.

B-48 was assigned to 62 Inf and moved under their control.

The 23rd a review was arranged for men receiving awards and a visit by the Commanding General was announced to do the decorating.

Reconnaissance was immediately instituted for possible routes of advance to the north in the event of a move against the enemy. Alternate plans and routes as prescribed by CCA were reconnoitered and overlays submitted.

HEADQUARTERS 48TH TANK BATTALION,
APO 446 U. S. ARMY

February, 1945.

A/A
M-C-N-T-H-L-Y R-E-P-O-R-T

DATE: Thursday, 1, Monday, 5, 1945.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: 48th minus "B", C-62.

Troops of the 48th were billeted in the surrounding towns of Lupstein as follows: A in Ingenheim, C-62 in Ingenheim, D in Lupstein, Service Co in Duntzenheim, Headquarters and Headquarters company in Lupstein. B Co attached to the 62nd in Wilwisheim.

The activities for the month of February consisted entirely of the training of troops, especially those newly arrived in the organization. Also an intensive training program was instituted for the balance of the command in the tactics and technique of the Infantry. Due to the limited use of our tanks because of extremely wet weather, very little training was conducted with vehicles.

Prior to the first of the month, our reconnaissance was sent out daily to reconnoiter specified routes as designated by combat command to repel such counter-attacks as might be made by the enemy but this was discontinued until further notice as of the first of the month.

A new officer to join the staff and become the S-3 arrived from division headquarters, Capt A. C. Kingsley, formerly of the I & L section.

A must on the daily program as prescribed by higher headquarters was the showing of the film "Germany" and was attended by all personnel. It dealt primarily with the conduct of soldiers on entering Germany and although very short contained valuable information for the men.

The highlights during the first five days of training consisted of a daily inspection in ranks for all troops with importance placed on cleanliness of personnel and weapons usually followed by instruction in one or more of the following subjects: Map Reading, security measures, Infantry-Tank team, and maintenance of weapons and vehicles. The day usually consisted of at least one hour of orientation which touched on all fronts of the present war with emphasis on the immediate front. At least once a week a discussion period was held for each company with various subjects as suggested by "Army Orientation talks" and created much interest among the troops.

The security program for the Bn and surrounding towns was outlined by higher headquarters and overlays of each town and their outposts was submitted by this headquarters. The senior commander of each town was held responsible for the safety and security of his troops and equipment and for any other organization that might be billeted in his town. Each night a field OD was appointed whose responsibility it was to check the guard and outposts to see that everything was in order.

Tentative plans were drawn up for a dismounted patrol problem to be held at night for each platoon with a definite mission to be performed each night. This was conducted under the supervision of our S-2 and thru the aid of each company commander.

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DATE: Tuesday, 6, Saturday, 10, Feb, 1945.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: No Change.

EVENTS: Through the courtesy of the Division Headquarters and Capt. Cardinal the battalion staff had their picture taken to-day and were very much elated; -- but -- much to the sorrow of the staff a few days later, they were informed the negatives were lost and had to be taken over. Thanks go to the efficiency of the PFO section.

Major Gavin, Bn CO was paid a visit by Col. Goodridge who inquired of the activities of the battalion during the past several weeks and gained valuable information. Being connected with a staff headquarters located in Paris, his job was to secure information from various tank battalions as to their contacts with the enemy and inquire about various weapons, methods used and such data that might be helpful in future operations of other units. He was very much pleased with our progress and efficiency for the short period we had been across. Much of this credit goes to our Bn commander whose fine work in organization and command from the date of the Barr incident has been highly recognized by higher headquarters.

Probably the highlight of the week was the retreat parade held by Headquarters Company and D Co in the vicinity of the CP. The colors were obtained from the storage and through the courtesy of A Co, a bugler was obtained. Before a very impressive crowd of civilians and Quartermaster troops the companies marched through the streets to the selected area and upon arrival of the Bn Commander were called to attention by the Adjutant remaining in position till the staff had taken their position. Retreat was sounded and companies dismissed by the Adjutant and marched to their respective company areas.

Saturday, each company held a command inspection conducted by the Bn staff and after much preparation each company displayed its best in weapons and personnel much to the approval of the Bn commander. Men showing exceptional neatness and cleanliness of weapons were rewarded with either a trip to Paris, Brussels or Nancy for the efforts.

For the week the training consisted of : Conduct of defensive fire, Maintenance of weapons and vehicles, Orientation, Tank-Inf communication, Camouflage, Security, Scouting and Patrolling.

Through the courtesy of the Division PFO officer, the band made its regular trip through the division playing for the various units and much to the delight of the civilian spectators a varied selection of pieces were played before continuing on their mission to other organizations.

DATE: Sunday, 11, Thursday 15, Feb. 1945.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: No Change.

EVENTS: Sunday being a day of rest back in the states was likewise set aside for those desiring to attend church services here in France. They were arranged for both Catholic and Protestant for all the men.

In the evening a soldier show presented by the 62nd Inf was presented in Duntzenheim and although the attendance from the 48th was not too great, those attending were well pleased with the entertainment.

Daily orientation meetings were held for each company in their respective towns and also each day at 1430 a general briefing was held at Bn Hq for each orientation officer from each company.

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One of the highlights for one day was the presence in person of the CG of the 14th, CO of CCA and C/S of the division. All were well pleased with the program and training being conducted in the battalion.

Additional orders from higher headquarters regarding security were such that each town commander was ordered to submit to Hqs a defense plan for his town in the event of attack by the enemy. These were in turn forwarded to division for final approval. These plans were practiced by each company to insure that each man knew his job and that any flaws could be corrected immediately.

Another of the highlights that brought recognition to the Bn was the demonstration of the flame thrower which was mounted on one of our tanks. The division staff witnessed its operation and was very well pleased with its ability as a new and additional weapon.

DATE: Friday, 16, Tuesday, 20, Feb, 1945.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: No Change.

EVENTS: The general plan of training followed for the above mentioned dates which covered such instruction as : Maintenance of vehicles and weapons, Dismounted combat, Security instructions, gunnery and indirect fire, Handling of mines and booby traps, Map reading, Terrain study and daily road marches.

Preparations for a mine and booby trap school were made by the Rcn platoon leader and the Rcn platoon. This was to be held for all troops as soon as the course was completed.

DATE: Wednesday, 21, Sunday, 25, 1945.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: B Co reverted to 48th. C-62 to 62nd Inf.

EVENTS: Six plans of attack to the north to repel such counter-attacks as the enemy might attempt were received by this Hqs from CCA and plans were immediately made to reconnoiter all routes and tentative march orders published. A company commanders meeting was held to familiarize all officers with the plans in the event any one of the six should be used. Overlays were prepared for each company CO and the following morning the Rcn sent out patrols to report conditions of routes and recommendations.

The 48th has the distinction of being the only unit to have in their possession a multi-barrelled rocket launcher mounted on a medium tank. Several demonstrations were given to various high ranking officers in the Seventh Army during the month with a medium degree of success. Since the demonstrations, the launcher has been used several times against the enemy. It has traveled to various units in the 6th Corp Front and favorable reports have been received.

Sunday as usual, church services were held for all personnel with no training scheduled. This concluded another week of intensive training in various phases of tactical warfare.

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DATE: Monday 26, Wednesday, 28, Feb. 45.

PLACE: Lupstein, Alsace, France.

TROOPS: 48th.

EVENTS: The week was begun by the intensive training for the replacements (reinforcements) received in the past month. A separate schedule was drawn up for them and under the supervision of Lt Davis, basic principles of gunnery, map reading, driving instructions, radio procedure were stressed. This continued for the balance of the week.

In addition to movies, shows, and such entertainment as was provided by our Special Service and the division special service, perhaps the highlight of the month was the battalion review held on the 28th in a near-by field which was laid out for the occasion. The ceremonies which were held to decorate several men in the battalion was spotlighted by the presence of the commanding general of the 14th, A. C. Smith, who assisted by the Asst. C of S, Lt. Col. Stephens, pinned the Bronze Star on our own battalion Commander, Major John C. Cavin in recognition of his outstanding achievements during the past engagements.

Several other men in the battalion received the medal from the General and then had the honor of watching the battalion pass in review. With the presence of the division band, a very impressive ceremony was watched by the civilian population and the other units in the town.

The 48th is proud of its record since arriving in France and has a high standard in the division. The accomplishments it has made in the past is definitely an incentive for the men in this organization to continue its good work against the enemy and when the end does come they can say with pride, "well done".

Now that the 48th Tank Battalion has successfully completed three months of overseas duty with its share of time spent in actual combat, it is with great pleasure and satisfaction that it be commended for the outstanding achievements accomplished by its personnel.

Below are listed the awards and commendations to those individuals who were outstanding in their duties against the enemy. Also listed below are those men who showed exceptional leadership and received the much coveted battlefield promotion to the officer rank.

A fitting tribute shall always be paid to those gallant soldiers who were "killed in action" serving their country. May their deeds never be overlooked and their memories remain with us.

S/Sgt Othello P. Comprini, (Bronze Star, appointment to 2nd Lt.)
Sgt. Leo J. Gaudette, (Purple Heart)
T/4 Angelo J. Battaglia, (Purple Heart)
Cpl Wilbur Kramer, (Purple Heart)
Cpl Barry Greer, Jr., (Purple Heart)
Cpl Elmer T. Phipps, (Purple Heart)
T/5 Ray N. Denton, (Purple Heart)
Pfc Lurner G. Hadley, (Purple Heart)
S/Sgt Samuel E. Boyden, (Bronze Star, Posthumously)
Pfc Everett A. Curfman, (Bronze Star)
Pfc Elton C. Ross, (Bronze Star)
Pfc George H. Ross, (Bronze Star)
T/4 Lloyd F. Lynch, (Bronze Star)
T/4 Raymond D. Manwaring, (Bronze Star)
T/4 Edward R. Salzetti, (Bronze Star)
T/5 Hugh C. Bailey, (Bronze Star)
T/5 Raymond L. Moran, (Bronze Star)
Cpl Walter C. Souder, (First oak leaf cluster to the Purple Heart)
T/4 Lloyd B. Hutt, (Purple Heart)
T/5 Eugene P. Nosal, (Purple Heart)
Pfc Robert D. Baker, (Purple Heart)
Sgt Lawrence G. Loper, (Bronze Star, Posthumously)
Sgt. Levi R. Jolls, (Bronze Star)
Pfc George F. Pessa, (Bronze Star)
T/5 Charles M. Thurston, (Bronze Star)
2nd Lt Joseph A. Conard, (Bronze Star)
T/5 Francis L. Durand, (Bronze Star)
Sgt Leo J. Gaudette, (First oak leaf cluster to the Purple Heart)
T/4 Arthur R. Emershy, (Purple Heart)
Major George W. England Jr, (Purple Heart)
1st Sgt Samuel H. Ferdinand, (Purple Heart)
Sgt Harry E. Hockensmith, (Purple Heart)
Pvt Casey A. Kucharski, (Purple Heart)
Cpl Casimer H. Nowak, (Purple Heart)
T/5 John J. Salvan, (Purple Heart)
Major George W. England Jr, (Bronze Star)
Capt James O. Witt Jr, (Bronze Star)
2nd Lt Sherman W. Young, (Bronze Star, appointment to 2nd Lt.)

Cpl Elmer T. Phipps, (Bronze Star)
First Platoon, Company A. (Citation of Unit)
Major John C. Cavin, (Bronze Star)
T/4 Jphn A. Cepuran, (Bronze Star)
Pfc Louis M. Crews, (Bronze Star)
T/4 Arthur T. Naczek, (Bronze Star)
T/Sgt Robert L. Wolfe, (Bronze Star)
2nd Lt Byrd F. Paty Jr, (Bronze Star)
Cpl Jack E. Reinhart, (Bronze Star)
Pfc Richard L. Bunnell, (Bronze Star)
Sgt Wallace L. Campbell, (Bronze Star)
T/5 Gregory L. Minter, Jr, (Bronze Star)
Pvt Luther J. Lockett, Jr, (Soldier's Medal)
W/Sgt Erwin H. Horakh, (Bronze Star)
Sgt Roger F. James, (Bronze Star)
2nd Lt Othello P. Comprini, (Bronze Star) Cluster)
2nd Lt. John C. Chatlain, (Battlefield appointment)
2nd Lt. Joseph T. Obermeyer, (Battlefield appointment)
Sgt Forrest Gable, (Distinguished Service Cross, Posthumously)
Major George W. England, Jr., (Silver Star)

We regret that all the men that received Purple Hearts could not be listed above due to the channels of communication. Only those listed above appeared on the 14th Armored Division's General Orders. Those being evacuated further than our own medical battalion will or have appeared on other orders published by various hospitals. Let us take our hats off to these men who have distinguished themselves in the service of their Country.

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M-O-B-T-H-L-Y

R-E-I-O-R-T

48th

Tank Bn

DATE: March 1-4, 1945
PLACE: Lupstein, France.
TROOPS: 48th Tank Bn.

Having spent the entire month of February in Lupstein France conducting various phases of training for the reinforcements received during that month, the battalion felt confident that they were again at their peak of combat efficiency and ready for any mission which might be given to them.

Probably the highlight of the training was our mine and booby trap school set up and conducted very ably by the reconnaissance platoon leader, Lt Carroll. Officers from various staff headquarters including the commanding general of the division visited the school frequently.

The break which was expected to come anytime finally arrived and on March 3 orders from higher headquarters instructed the Bn Commander to attach one (1) light and one (1) medium tank company to the famous 42d "Rainbow" division then located in Wingen. This mission was given to "B" and "D" company and the CO's of these companies reported immediately to the CG of the 42d for their instructions and orders. The balance of the battalion was attached to the 103d Inf Division and was immediately ordered to move to the vicinity of Bouxwiller. The Bn Commander reported to the CG of the 103d for his orders and our S-3 reported to the 14th for any last minute information.

At 2000 on the 3d, the 48th CO's and staff had their meeting at which time the FO and MO was given. Tentative movement time was set at 0800 on the 4th.

So on the morning of the 4th, the home of the 48th Tk Bn was graciously closed at Lupstein France and proudly proceeded to its new locations namely, Hq and Hq Co Bossellhausen; A Co to Ingwiller; B Co to Wimmenau; C Co to Bouxwiller; D Co to Wingen and Service Company remained at Duntzenheim.

A general summary of the tactical set up for the Bn is as follows: Hq and Hq Co minus the Assault Gun Platoon with CP in Bossellhausen with a administrative mission only under 103d Inf Div. A Co minus 1 platoon with CP in Ingwiller attached to the 411th Inf Regt in a supporting role and participating in combined training with that Regt. the 3rd platoon attached to the 410th Inf Regt with CP at Zutzendorf with same mission as the company.

B Co with CP in Wimmenau in supporting role to elements of the 42d. Three sections occupying positions in the line and one in reserve.

D Co with CP in Wimmenau in supporting role to elements of the 42d and held in reserve.

All of the assault guns in the battalion were consolidated under the direction of the 103d Div Artillery at Ottwiller.

W. H. M. C. & A. 46

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DATE : March 5-12, 1945
 PLACE: Bossellhausen, France.
 TROOPS: No Change.

The 42d having elements on the line were supported by sections of our tanks during this period and under the direction of the division conducted their training and maintenance as prescribed by that headquarters.

A and C company under direction of the 103d also conducted training and maintenance as prescribed by that headquarters.

One of our tanks having a multi-barrelled rocket projector mounted on it was most in demand by various units and after performing demonstrations for the 14th, was called for by the 103d and 42d.

During the period 5-12, although a somewhat static situation existed as far as actual contact with the enemy was concerned, the activities of the entire Bn consisted mostly of Tank-Infantry training and maintenance of weapons. Under the supervision of the 42d and 103d, tankers were taught the value of employment with doughs and likewise the Infantry were instructed in the operation of tanks in support and assault. In the brief association with these two outstanding Infantry Divisions, valuable training was received that was to prove a large factor in our future operations although unknown of course at the time.

A company supporting the 410 and 411, performed outpost duties around Ingwiller during the entire week substituting platoon for platoon thereby permitting each platoon to perform their necessary maintenance and also receive the training as set forth by the Regts.

C company situated in Bouxwiller, spent the entire week in training with Inf and conducting problems in conjunction with the Inf regiments. Both companies along with their regular duties, managed to camouflage all their vehicles with the time allotted to them by the camouflage team which traveled to our various units.

B company supporting the regiments of the 42d were called on to furnish usually three sections of tanks on the line and although no actual contact was made, they remained in direct support of the Inf for the entire period. They too managed to have all vehicles camouflaged and to perform their necessary maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

D company during the entire period remained in Div Res and therefore their time was spent in maintenance and camouflage of vehicles.

The assault guns attached to the 928th FA Bn fired several missions during the week and on occasions observed fire was made against the enemy with good results.

The much publicized "Ripple Dipple" also saw much of the country traveling from the 14th to the 103d and 42d giving actual demonstrations against the enemy. Its results, although not generally known, met the approval of the Inf Divs.

With little activity being made or done against the enemy higher headquarters with plans of their own in mind, ordered a change in troops.

On March 10, OI No. 67 of the 103d directed the relief of the 48th (-) by the 761st Tk Bn and to move to a designated area as prescribed by the 14th. The CO of the 761st called on our Bn Commander and a general briefing of the details he would assume were discussed. The relief was scheduled to be made on the arrival of the 761, tentatively March 12, who were originally located in the 1st Army area.

On contacting the 14th, our CO was directed to move the Bn (-) to the vicinity of Westhouse, namely, Hq and Hq Co, A and Q; D Co to Dettwiller. The Bn (-) reverted to CCR control and D Co under Div Hqs control with the mission of furnishing them their security.

Reconnaissance was sent out to reconnoiter the prescribed route and early on the morning of the 12, the advance party moved to its new area to establish the CP.

Not underestimating the possibilities of a quick change in plans, the inevitable happened and at 0930 orders from CG of the 42d halted movement until further orders and directed our CO to their Hqs and our S-3 to 14th Hqs.

On their return the disposition of troops looked like this; A and D to the 14th, D moving to Dettwiller and A under CCR to Westhouse. Hq and Hqs Co, B and C under 42d control with B remaining in Wimmenau and C moving to Wingen and Hq and Hqs moving to Hinsburg.

So-- after the mad scramble was untangled, at 1300 the CP at Bossellhausen closed and two hours later opened in Hinsburg. No definite mission was assigned the Bn but B Co remained in direct support of the Div with 3 sections in the line, the balance in Res.

C Co performed their usual maintenance after the march and Hq and Hqs Co established security in and around Hinsburg.

A Co remained under CCR 14th control and D Co furnished the security for the Div Hqs.

DATE: March 13-14, 1945

PLACE: Hinsburg, France.

TROOPS: 48th minus A & D.

For the two day period above, the Bn CO was on several occasions called to the 42d CP to receive a general briefing on future operation which at this time was highly secret.

In the meantime no changes in troop disposition or missions were made but all troops were ordered to be on the alert for a possible quick move, direction unknown.

Early on the morning of the 14th FO No3 42d Div was delivered and at 1600 the Bn CO called in his staff and CO's to divulge its contents. The general situation and where the 48th fit in was this-- The mission of the 6th Corp was to uncover and breach the Siegfried Line, destroy enemy in Z and capture high ground E and NE of Pirm. sens. The mission of the 42d was to attack on axis Lichenberg Schonau to capture high ground vicinity Schonau and uncover Siegfried Line.

The mission of the 48th with only B and C Co's was disposed of as follows-- 1 Pl B in support of 222 Inf Regt and 1 Pl in support of 242 Inf Regt. The 3 Pl under TF Downard was placed in Div reserve to be committed if necessary.

C Co initially in reserve, was given the mission of reconnoitering routes forward behind advancing front line units prepared to support the attack on division order.

While the Bn was preparing for the big push, the service elements were moved from Duntzenheim to Weiterswiller where trains were attached to the two line companies for resupply of fuel, water and ammunition.

At 1810 on March 14, Bn moved their CP to Wingen and B Co moved likewise to an assembly area in that vicinity. C Co already in that area, continued their preparations for the attack.

DATE: March 15,- 16, 1945.

PLACE: Wingen France.

TROOPS: 48th minus A and D.

On the morning of the 15th, under a terrific bombardment of artillery and supporting aircraft, the famed 42d "Rainbow Division" supported by the little known 48th "Ata Bn" jumped off to what would go down in history as the "Big Push" against the much talked about Siegfried Line. Two regiments abreast with one in reserve at the crack of dawn began routing the enemy from the dense forests of the Hardt Mountain Range. Although the enemy taken unaware at this unexpected attack, fought relentlessly with anti-air and mortar fire to stem the onrush of doughfeet. Our tanks, although not actually in contact with the enemy followed closely on the heels of the Infantry prepared to assault if necessary.

B Company with 2 platoons in the drive and one in reserve, moved to the vicinity of Bannstein, their first mission, there to take up defensive positions for the night. C Company also with 2 platoons supporting and one in reserve moved to vicinity of Phillipsbourg and Moulehausen.

At 1520 on the 17th, following closely in the path of the drive, the Hq and Hq Co moved to Ballerstein where a CP was established and liaison maintained with both companies. The route prescribed was as usual thru the thick of the mountains and after much delay with tanks bogging down and roads virtually to be made, the CP closed at 2000. Credit must be given to the troops for this march for the terrain definitely against tank movement was accomplished in complete blackout over narrow hazardous trails.

DATE: March 17-18, 1945

PLACE: Ballerstein, France.

TROOPS: No change.

Although little activity was noted during the day and the novelty of the push had worn off, the usual sweating out continued at Hqs always waiting some word or message from higher headquarters as to the situation.

The two tank companies being literally split up among the various Regiments of the 42nd left only two platoons of Company C and attached Engineers to be commanded by TF Cavin and at 1830 the 18th, he ordered to move to Ober Steinbach and take up a defensive position on the Siegfried Line in support of the Infantry already in the vicinity.

DATE: March 19-21, 1945
 PLACE: Ober Steinbach, France.
 TROOPS: No change.

With this mission to perform the Battalion minus again moved at the break of dawn the 19th and after winding their way through the hills joined Company C, who were already in position and were seeing action and took several enemy vehicles and pill boxes under fire with good results. The first casualty of the attack thus far was encountered by Company C when one of their tanks was disabled and was forced to pull back.

Ludwigswinkle, a border town between France and Germany, was partially occupied by the tanks and Infantry and so continued to hammer the town with artillery in an effort to drive the enemy from their positions. At dusk, 2 platoons remained in the line and were protected with Infantry in event of an infiltration. Little activity was seen on the front but a change in troops was made which gave us the entire Company B to support Company C if necessary and a relief between platoons was made by the 1st relieving the 2nd, having out-posted the town during the night and their 2nd and 3rd platoons took up a supporting role in aiding the Infantry in defending bridges north of Ludwigswinkle.

Again the 21st, 2 platoons of Company C continued to fire on enemy activity and were joined by the 3rd platoon, later to fire on pill boxes and installations in preparation for the assault by the 222nd Infantry Regiment at 1915.

DATE: March 22, 1945
 PLACE: Ludwigswinkle, Germany.
 TROOPS: No Change.

During the recent 7th Army breakthrough of the vaunted Siegfried Line, the 48th Tank Battalion, called by its members the 48th Mountain Tank Battalion because of its operations in the Vosges and Hardt Mountains, was attached to the famous 42nd (Rainbow) Division. While the "Rainbow" was cleaning out the last corner of Alsace, the 48th was in close support as the doughboys pushed through the rugged terrain of the Hardt Mountains. It was on 22 March 1945 that the 48th really went into action.

C-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

At 1515, orders were received at the Bn C.P. for the 48th to assemble a task force consisting of two companies of medium tanks and two companies of infantry, mounted on the tanks, to assemble in the vicinity of Ludwigswinkle, Germany, just south of the Siegfried Line. The 42nd had broken through the line of pillboxes (twin at that particular point because of the mountainous terrain) during the previous 24 hours aided by P-47 fighter-bombers, artillery, and devastating direct fire from the 48th Tanks. The plan was to exploit and breakthrough, take the towns of Salwoog, Dahn, Busenberg, and contact friendly troops advancing in the 103rd Division sector on the right.

At 1630 the column under the command of Major James N. Studer, Lakeville, Minnesota, was under way, passing through the front lines of the 42nd and breaking loose. The column was led by the 2nd Plat, of B-48, 2nd Lt B. F. Paty, West Palm Beach, Florida, in the leading tank. Next came the 1st Plat, B-48, with 2nd Lt George Eberhardt, North Caldwell, New Jersey; then came the 1st Plat, C-48, commanded by 1st Lt John Stair, Madison, New Jersey; then the remainder of B Company with the C.O. Capt R. G. Elder, Georgetown, Illinois. C Company, 48th, followed B Company through the exploitation under the command of Capt John D. Wilson, Greeneville, Tennessee.

The column raced to Salwoog, swung east and headed toward Dahn. On the road, already littered with remnants of the disorganized German Army, an artillery piece was destroyed and some sporadic resistance met and over-powered by fire from the tanks and tank-mounted infantry. At this point the first group of a continuous flow of prisoners was captured and started to the rear under guard.

At this point the Commanding Officer of the 48th, Major John C. Cavin, Menlo, Georgia, directed the route of the task force and ordered the advance at all possible speed. The execution of this order was the deciding factor in the breakthrough in this sector.

During the next hour the column worked its way through Dahn, a large German town, capturing more prisoners and stunning the dazed civilians who seemed unable to believe that the Americans were actually there. Some small-arms and minor resistance was met and quickly neutralized by the leading platoon.

In addition to the continuous small arms fire, Lt Paty's platoon was forced to follow a very hazardous course through semi-darkness against unknown enemy capabilities, through the burning wreckage of trucks, guns and personnel carriers. However, the advance did not slow down, but proceeded rapidly toward Busenberg.

Soon after leaving Dahn the leading tank was fired on by two "panzerfausts", but the sand-bagged tank exploded the rockets harmlessly. At approximately 2030 the column reached Busenberg. There the task force consolidated and set up defensive positions. In the early morning the mission was accomplished when, slightly to the east, a friendly column of the Division on the right flank was contacted.

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During the tank force operation, the tanks pushing through as rapidly as they did, collected over 1300 prisoners of all shapes, sizes, and descriptions, including SS men, Officers, Wehrmacht, Volkstrum, civilian snipers, and so on.

And so the vaunted Siegfried Line was breached in still another place, and American Soldiers forged ahead.

DATE: March 23, 1945.
PLACE: Busenberg, Germany.
TROOPS: No Change.

During the day a general cleaning up of the town was instituted and contact was maintained with the 103rd Infantry Division which had completed a successful thrust to meet the elements of TF Cavin. Little opposition was met by the civilian population and by noon the A.M.G. had taken over.

A brief visit by Major General Collins, C.G. 42nd Infantry Division was paid the Battalion C.O., Major Cavin and he was commended for his brilliant execution of the orders that accomplished the annihilation of the enemy. With both Company Commanders and platoon leaders doing a superb job of leadership, another link in the chain of cooperation with adjacent troops was accomplished and one step nearer to the wars end.

DATE: March 24, 1945.
PLACE: Busenberg, Germany.
TROOPS: No change.

At 0500 the battalion was officially released from the again famous Rainbow Division and at 0800 moved out to rejoin the 14th generally located in the vicinity of Wissembourg. Through the balance of the Hardt Mountains and out into the open country marched the 48th Mountain Tank Battalion and enjoyed a peaceful and scenic view enroute of some of French-German boundry. Schleithol, France was entered at 1700 and the battalion set up security for the night and slowly sifted into slumber feeling that Victory was ours.

DATE: March 25-31, 1945.
PLACE: Nieder Otterbach, Germany.
TROOPS: No change.

At 1300 Sunday, March 25th, 48th (-) moved to Nieder Otterbach, Germany and was placed under CC R control. A Company minus 1 platoon, D Company minus 1 platoon, A. G. platoon (-) reverted to battalion control. Service Company, having moved to Schleithol, remained there until the 27th because of overcrowded conditions in the battalion area.

The 14th Armd Div, having breached the Siegfried Line in this area, had the job of clearing pill boxes and the general assigned area. A sector was assigned and at 0800, 26 March, aided by prisoners of war, the troops moved among the dugouts and installations

to clear them. The Battalion continued its work and until the 30th remained under CC R, at which time reverted to CC A control and was placed on an hour alert. The attachments were A-68, 2C-94, 2C-125 and as per SOP, Able Company was attached to 68 AIB. At 1100 the movement was called off and in its place the division was attached to the XV Corps. At 1200, the 31st, orders were again received to prepare to move at 1500 to the vicinity of Darmstadt, Germany, a march of approximately 162 miles with the crossing of the Rhine, a highlight which came on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945 at 0415. Some day, perhaps in a little corner you may find a clipping which will inform you that the 48th "Mountain Tank Battalion" participated in the breaching of the Siegfried Line - but, if you don't, rest assured in your mind that it was a job well done and be proud you are a member of the "48th".

Below are listed the awards and commendations to those individuals who were outstanding in their duties against the enemy. Also listed below are those men who showed exceptional leadership and received the much coveted

A fitting tribute shall always be paid to those gallant soldiers who were "killed in action" serving their country. May their deeds never be overlooked and their memories remain with us.

1st Sgt Samuel H. Ferdinand, (Bronze Star, appointment to 2d Lt)
S/Sgt Morris Ginsburg, (Bronze Star)
Pvt Herbert L. Grablowski, (Bronze Star)
Cpl Donald W. Hewins, (Bronze Star)
Capt John D. Wilson, (Bronze Star)
Sgt Walter H. Arp, (Bronze Star)
Tec 5 William J. Kieckhefer, (Bronze Star)
Pfc Frank F. Russo, (Bronze Star)
Cpl Knott C. Rankin, Jr, (Posthumously, Silver Star)
S/Sgt William E. McCauley, (Silver Star)
Pfc George H. Ross, (First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star)
Tec 4 Arthur R. Emershy, (Bronze Star)
Tec 4 Morton Feigenson, (Bronze Star)
Capt Joel P. Ory, (Bronze Star)
1st Sgt Raymond Franklin, (Appointment to 2d Lt)
S/Sgt John Dambacher, (Appointment to 2d Lt)
S/Sgt Joseph Costa, (Appointment to 2d Lt)
S/Sgt Earl Wall, (Appointment to 2d Lt)

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 48TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446 U. S. ARMY

M-O-N-T-H-L-Y R-E-P-O-R-T

SECRET

Date: April 1, 1945.

Place: Vicinity of Darmstadt Germany.

Troops: Bn (-) Att A-68, 2-C-94, 2-C-125.

Action: On March 31, at approximately 1800, the 48th Tank Bn bid good-bye to the little shattered town of Weider-Otterbach a France-Germany border town in the midst of the famed Siegfried Line defenses; and with orders to fall in column with the balance of the division, started the long march to cross the Rhein and enter the heart of Germany. Uneventful as a road march might seem, on Easter Morning, April 1, at 0400 the head of the column rolled across the bridge spanning the Rhein at Worms Germany and continued on its march north using one of Germany's famous auto-bans continuing into the city of Darmstadt now almost leveled by aircraft.

At 0730 on the 1st the Bn plus attachments closed into the town of Gundernhausen Germany and immediately established security and road blocks in and around the town.

Due to the extremely long march, maintenance was first priority and bogies were replaced as fast as they could be obtained from division.

As rumors seem to grow into actualities, word from higher headquarters was received for the Bn to be alerted for movement anytime after 1300. Aside from the fact this would mean almost half the combat vehicles would be left behind, orders were immediately issued to the company commanders. Then as the usual occurrence happens, at 1730 the alert was cancelled and movement placed on call only.

Date: April 2, 1945.

Place: Enroute to Neuhutten Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: Finally at approximately 0130, OI NO. 42, CCA Hqs was received at the Bn CP and on investigation found that the Combat Command would begin movement at 0115 with the objective of seizing the town of Ostheim and surrounding ground.

Thus the 48th plus attachments moved out at 0330 following the route as prescribed, crossing the Main river at approximately 0800 then continuing to an assembly area where the Bn C.O. ordered troops to assume combat order in column prepared for action. They thus continued the march till after dark, reaching the town of Neuhutten where the Bn consolidated their positions and remained for the night.

(1542)

28 JUL 1945

New Case

SECRET

A-68 reported contact with the enemy along the route of march SW of Neuhutten and consequently remained in that vicinity for the night.

Date: April 3, 1945.

Place: Vicinity of Aura Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0645 the 48th continued its attack towards the town of Sondheim, the new objective of CCA. A-68 having made contact with the enemy was picked up along the route and the Bn then continued its advance through forests and valleys meeting only light resistance of small arms fire and an occasional A/T fire which was immediately repelled.

The CP remained in column during the entire day following the advance elements and finally pulled into Lohrhaupten where the Infantry was delayed clearing the town of enemy snipers and hidden Germans in the houses. On completion of this mission they continued their attack with the objective of reaching the next town before dark. The route was defended with road blocks and small arms fire and therefore it was well after 2000 before orders for the Hq section to proceed to Aura where the Bn had seized and consolidated were received. After much difficulty over rough and muddy terrain and intense blackness the balance of the column closed into Aura and the crowded conditions existed the men managed to bed down for the night after a long and tedious day.

Date: April 4, 1945.

Place: Vicinity Bad Brucknau Germany

Troops: No change.

Action: Early on the morning of the 4th the little town of Aura was left behind and the forward elements moved out to continue their mission of clearing the enemy from the towns intermediate to the objective of the combat command. Six towns were captured along the route with little or no opposition from the enemy. Little time was spent in clearing the towns of enemy but for the days operation approximately 625 prisoners were taken including an estimate of 425 at a hospital in Bad Brucknau. 600 French, Russians, Poles and one American were released from the enemy.

The column closed in Bad Brucknau at 1600 and the advance elements continued its attack on Brucknau there meeting strong resistance in enemy mortar, A-T and S-A fire. One tank was disabled by A/T fire and several doughs injured by mortar fire.

At this point positions were consolidated for the night and Hqs were set up in Bad Brucknau.

Date: April 5, 1945.

Place: Ob-Reidenberg Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: Little progress was made on the 5th. At 0700 the Bn plus attachments attacked seized and occupied Brucknau in less than an hour after pushing off but beyond the town reconnaissance revealed bridges over the main route of advance were destroyed and consequently by passes were immediately sought.

Engineers were brought forward and construction of the bridge was started while the Bn found an alternate route around the obstacle by means of utilizing a short stretch of railroad near by. After losing much valuable time along this portion of the route, elements pushed forward in the face of light resistance and were again stopped north of Oberbach by another blown bridge. At this point positions were consolidated for the night at Ob-Reidenberg. Hqs were set up here, security was posted and operations for the following day were outlined.

Date: April 6, 1945.

Place: Wildflecken Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: After working most of the night, the engineers had constructed a bridge and at 0830 the Bn moved out to continue their attack. Oberbach was seized and occupied at 0900 against only S/P and S/A fire. Pausing only to assemble the column, it continued over the prescribed route over rough terrain and adverse weather conditions to drop down upon the camp and town of Wildflecken. Here again only light harrassing fire was received which was immediately suppressed and the tanks and Infantry entered the town and seized one of the largest camps yet encountered. Several buildings containing wounded german soldiers were also seized and the personnel evacuated to the rear. Such narrow margins with adjacent troops were maintained during the previous days advances that on several occasions, including the attack on Wildflecken, friendly Infantry was quite frequently encountered while entering or approaching various towns and villages along the route of advance.

Defensive fires and security were established for the night and coordinated plans with the 3rd Inf Div were outlined by the C. O.'s concerned for the following day's continued attack.

Date: April 7-10, 1945.

Place: Neustadt, Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 2300 on the 6th, OI No. 46 containing operation orders for the following day were received. The 15th Inf of the 3rd Div having entered Wildflecken on the heels of the 48th, were to continue their attack in the general direction of our advance. On completion of their clearing Bischofsheim, the Bn was ordered to proceed on their prescribed route of advance at 070545 providing the 15th had cleared the initial objective. Otherwise jump off time was set at 0615. At 0445 message from 15th through CCA requested our time be delayed to allow them to clear Bischofsheim as resistance was greater than anticipated. So contrary to original plans the CP closed at Wildflecken at 0930 and sections of light tanks and Infantry forming the advance guard moved out to again route the enemy to the objective. Town after town was entered and cleared with little or no resistance; the enemy always endeavoring to keep a few miles ahead. Several horse drawn pieces and equipment were abandoned along the route in the haste of the enemy.

At this point the objective was again changed; previously CCA objective was Stettin, Nordheim, Ostheim but changes in the tactical situation with adjacent troops caused the new objective to be designated as Heustadt-Insleben.

This simplified matters for the 48th as at the time of receipt of new orders almost at the outskirts of Heustadt and was only a matter of seizing and holding the town. But here, heavier resistance than anticipated was met and a fire fight resulted with tanks and Infantry against enemy S/A and S/P. While the column closed into Brendlorenzen, advance elements continued to clear the enemy by rounding up prisoners and the Infantry performed their usual mission of house to house routing. Several rounds of artillery were received during the occupation but was repulsed with counter battery.

At 2200 the entire Bn and attachments closed into the town and established road blocks and security around the town. Higher Hqs of 3rd Inf Div informed the C.O. that additional troops would be brought forward in the morning to assume a portion of the town and relieve our troops of their sectors. Before retiring the inevitable "bed check charlie" paid its regular call to the CP and several rounds came near registering.

During the next three day period the Bn was able to take a much needed rest from its usual routine of fighting.

Assisted by the 15th Inf Regt and our own Infantry and tanks, the town was completely cleared of enemy troops and snipers. Critical points were protected by either guards or road blocks and with a minimum number of personnel performing this mission, the balance began their maintenance of vehicles and weapons. Some were successful in getting baths and hair cuts and those more fortunate, clean cloths.

The AMG and CIC moved in and took over the city, setting up their Hqs and assistance was given them by our personnel when needed.

Reconnaissance was made of routes leading out of town in all directions preparatory to any orders that might be received from higher headquarters.

One combat patrol consisting of a section of light tanks and Infantry was sent out to clear any pockets that might still be in the surrounding area thereby assuring higher headquarters of security around their objective.

Both platoons of the 94th and 125 were both released to their parent unit and moved to their respective areas. So the Bn with A-68, and D Co reverting back to us, continued the much needed maintenance of weapons and vehicles.

Date: April 11, 1945.

Place: Simmershausen Germany.

Troops: Bn (-) A-68, A-500, 2-C-125, 2-C-94.

Action: At 1300 the Bn was alerted for movement to an assembly area with a new mission assigned by CCA; that of seizing and occupying Staffelstein, a town lying just across the Main River.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

One town in the assembly area, Westhausen, had not been cleared of the enemy as yet so at 2130 a platoon of Light Tanks and two platoons of Infantry were dispatched with that mission in mind.

At 1740 the CP closed at Neustadt and proceeded to Simmershausen where operations were planned for the following day. At 1800 the following attachments were made to the Bn: A-500, 2-C-125, 2-C-94.

Date: April 12, 1945.

Place: Unnersdorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0630 the Bn plus attachments jumped off to a fresh start and a new mission, moving initially thru Westhausen then picking up the force that had occupied that town the night before.

After passing thru nine towns with little or no resistance, the Main River was reached only to find all bridges in the zone were damaged beyond use. Reconnaissance was immediately instituted and the Bn managed to get B and C companies across at Unnersdorf by means of fording the river. Although water almost cleared the sponsons, all tanks reached the other side with little or no motor failure. The Bn C O with both tank companies proceeded to enter and occupy Staffelstein capturing 75 box cars of food, ammunition, coal, guns and clothing; two ammunition dumps, one flax factory and one hospital with 300 enemy patients.

Bridging equipment was immediately ordered forward and the Engineers began preparation for the treadway. The balance of the Bn and combat trains closed into Unnersdorf with intentions of crossing the river at the earliest moment of completion of the bridge.

Date: April 13, 1945.

Place: Stachendorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At approximately 0100 word was received that no treadway was available and that instead 3rd Army was sending forward a platoon to build a Bailey bridge instead. Work was begun at approximately 0500 and was estimated to be completed for crossing at 1300.

Several different orders were received regarding the new objective prior to bridge crossing time and only then was it definitely decided only a few minutes before the head of the column crossed.

Upon word that the bridge was completed, the Bn crossed the bridge at 1630 advanced through area already cleared by the 15 Inf Regt to Hollfeld where we passed through their lines, seized and occupied Treppendorf, Stachendorf and Wadendorf. Resistance in the form of S/A and automatic weapons was met in these towns but overcome. Captured 285 PW's at Stachendorf. Here the Bn remained for the night with plans of resuming the attack at dawn.

~~SECRET~~

Date: April 14, 1945.

Place: Nankendorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At approximately 0230, OI No 50 Hq CCA was received which prescribed that the attack to the SE be continued at 0630. The 48th between the 68th and CCR moved out and arrived on the objective without any noted events and companies were assigned the towns of Waischenfeld, Nankendorf and Pankenfels.

Date: April 15, 1945.

Place: Neudorf Germany

Troops: No change.

Action: The operations instructions were received at the early hours of the morning and the information was this: The 45th and 3rd Inf Div were attacking Nurnberg and the 14th AD was to cut the autobahn north east of that city. The 48th was given the mission of cutting and occupying the RJ at Neudorf and outlying towns. Through a route of extremely bad roads the autobahn was finally reached and the unit proceeded to the objective. Bn Hq and Hq Co and C Co occupied Neudorf. A-68 and B-48 occupied Horlach. Platoon of D-48, 2 platoons A-68 and platoon of D-48 and platoon of TD's occupied Wannberg. Security was established for the night and although quite spread out, we managed to hold for the night.

Date: April 16, 1945.

Place: Neudorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: During the day reconnaissance was instituted throughout the area of Neudorf and the crossroads; Pegnitz was cleared and occupied by elements of our unit where a quantity of equipment and ammunition was captured of all descriptions. There were 400 personnel liberated from a concentration camp at Pottenstein and 200 forced laborers at Pegnitz. Small groups of prisoners were being collected to total 260. The Bn remained in their same location for the night prepared to move at dawn.

Date: April 17, 1945.

Place: Hohenstadt Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: The enemy in an effort to clear our forces from Neudorf and the surrounding areas and reestablish his route of retreat to the autobahn, made a number of counterattacks on this day. During the night considerable enemy motor and dismounted activity was reported in the vicinity. The first counter-attack was reported at Betzenstein at 0740. C-48 plus one platoon A-68 moved immediately to that town to repulse attack but things were quiet upon their arrival. Shortly afterward enemy activity was reported to the south and east of our position but was driven off by our reconnaissance and outposting elements.

SECRET

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At 1330 the Bn proceeded to pursue retreating forces to the south. The 500 AFA was released from attachment and replaced by the 69th AFA. The Bn advanced through a series of towns and occupied Alfater and Hohenstadt at 2130.

Date: April 18, 1945.

Place: Berg Germany.

Troops: 69th replaced 500th AFA.

Action: Verbal instructions and an overlay were received from CCA for an attack on Neumarkt. The Bn moved from Hohenstadt and proceeded on mission. Scattered resistance was encountered on the route of advance and was overcome. However, the resistance increased and in the towns of Riebling and Richtheim small arms, mortar artillery and 88 AA guns were encountered. Elements of this unit consolidated positions in these towns for the night and made preparations for an attack on Neumarkt. Bn Hq and Hq Co remained in Berg. B-48 in Riebling and A-68 and C-48 in Richtheim.

Date: April 19, 1945

Place: Richtheim Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0700 this morning elements of this unit proceeded on a coordinated attack on Neumarkt with the 68th AIB. A pre-arranged air mission was waiting and if the enemy still resisted strongly we were to withdraw and call for air support. However, some Infantry and tanks were able to enter town and gain a foothold in NE edge in face of intense artillery and mortar fire. The balance of the Bn remained in their present positions as reserve.

Date: April 20, 1945.

Place: Dillberg Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: Operations instructions No 55 and 56 Hq CCA were received and affected the following: All elements of our forces in Neumarkt were to withdraw effective at 0400 and Neumarkt was to be cleared by daylight. Commencing at 0800 an air mission was scheduled to be flown on the city. The troops were withdrawn and although not exactly on schedule, the air mission was flown; the results, however were unknown due to our being relieved by the 65th Inf Div. Our orders were to concur with OI No 55 which instructed to advance south. At 1415 the Bn marched to Berg and west to Hausheim. Intense small arms, automatic weapons and S/P guns repulsed attack and our elements withdrew and consolidated for the night

Date: April 21, 1945

Place: Postbauer Germany

Troops: No change.

Action: At 0445, A-68 again attacked Postbauer and was repulsed by sniper and small arms fire of great intensity. Upon completion of withdrawal at 0800 a fifteen minute artillery barrage was placed upon the town.

Date: April 14, 1945.

Place: Nankendorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: At approximately 0230, OI No 50 Hq CCA was received which prescribed that the attack to the SE be continued at 0630. The 48th between the 68th and CCR moved out and arrived on the objective without any noted events and companies were assigned the towns of Waischenfeld, Nankendorf and Pankenfels.

Date: April 15, 1945.

Place: Neudorf Germany

Troops: No change.

Action: The operations instructions were received at the early hours of the morning and the information was this: The 45th and 3rd Inf Div were attacking Nurnberg and the 14th AD was to cut the autobahn north east of that city. The 48th was given the mission of cutting and occupying the RJ at Neudorf and outlying towns. Through a route of extremely bad roads the autobahn was finally reached and the unit proceeded to the objective Bn Hq and Hq Co and C Co occupied Neudorf. A-68 and B-48 occupied Horlach. Platoon of D-48, 2 platoons A-68 and platoon of D-48 and platoon of TD's occupied Wannberg. Security was established for the night and although quite spread out, we managed to hold for the night.

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Place: Neudorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

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Troops: No change.

Action: The enemy in an effort to clear our forces from Neudorf and the surrounding areas and reestablish his route of retreat to the autobahn, made a number of counterattacks on this day. During the night considerable enemy motor and dismounted activity was reported in the vicinity. The first counter-attack was reported at Betzenstein at 0740. C-48 plus one platoon A-68 moved immediately to that town to repulse attack but things were quiet upon their arrival. Shortly afterward enemy activity was reported to the south and east of our position but was driven off by our reconnaissance and outposting elements.

SECRET

For most of the unit, this was a day of maintenance of vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel as the bridge had not yet been built. Preparations were made to continue attack to the SE on its completion.

Date: April 26, 27, 1945.

Place: Marching Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: The bridge was completed early on the morning of the 26 and the Bn plus attachments moved out to continue the advance to the SE with the objective of the Danube river and its crossings. Eight towns were taken during the day with little or no resistance until reaching Arresting where determined resistance was encountered by enemy Infantry armed with automatic weapons and bazooka. Here for the first time tanks and Infantry deployed and drove the enemy from the high ground surrounding the vicinity of Marching and Arresting. Air missions in the surrounding area revealed the fact adjacent troops were running against opposition such as we had encountered. After sitting along the road for almost three hours and being strafed by enemy aircraft, orders were received to move the column into Marching. Here the Bn consolidated their positions for the night awaiting further orders since bridges across the Danube at this point had been destroyed.

Date: April 28, 1945.

Place: Gaden Bei Geisenfeld Germany.

Troops: Bn (-) att A-19, 3-B-94, 3-B-125 Btry 501

Action: After regrouping was completed the Bn conducted maintenance of vehicles and weapons during the day awaiting further orders. On call from higher headquarters the Bn was ordered to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Gaden Bei Geisenfeld prepared for a new mission. Crossing of the Danube to be made at Ingolstadt where a bridge had been constructed by other units of the division. Movement commenced at approximately 1600 and although no friendly information could be obtained regarding the assembly area, no enemy was encountered and the Bn closed in at 2100; security put out by companies and no further orders pending, the Bn sought much needed rest for the night.

Date: April 29, 1945.

Place: Eggersdorf Germany.

Troops: No change.

Action: Having been assigned a new mission of ^{SE 12/43} seize crossings of the Isar Rivver at Landshut, a division objective, the 48th for a change was placed in reserve initially but at 0500 TF Studer was organized consisting of the following: A-19, Pl A-48, sec D-48, sec Rcn 94, sec Engrs moved at 0515 cleared and occupied Schusselhausen, Rachertshofen, and Sandelshausen. At 1000 the Bn minus TF Studer proceeded to the town of Eggersdorf still in reserve of the division. Here the TF joined the Bn and contact patrols were established with adjacent units for the night. The Bn was ordered on the alert to assist troops in the attack on Landshut but fortunately the night was quiet and no help was needed.

Date: April 30, 1945.

Troops: No Change.

Place: Inkhofen Germany.

Action: The Combat command continued to remain in division reserve and the 48th continued its mission of running contact patrols with adjacent units. A bridge reconnaissance was ordered by higher headquarters and this was performed by the Recon platoon and one squad of Inf; no crossings were found and no suitable bridge sites were located.

CCA having the mission of protecting the bridge site at Landshut which had been captured by CCR, the CCB was ordered to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Moosburg where the division engineers and the 300 Engrs were also reconnoitering for a bridge site. We were ordered to remain on the alert for the crossing as soon as the bridge was completed. Consequently the Bn moved from Eggersdorf at 1730 and under extreme black out conditions closed into the little town of Inkhofen where overlays were received and orders issued for the following day. This consisted of attacking to the SE securing crossings across the Inn River in the vicinity of Jettenbach. This was the ultimate Corp objective and the 48th after spending the past two days in division reserve, the first during the entire month, was confident that it would be reached in the least possible time and a minimum of casualties.

During the months operations the Bn can be proud that it has such a capable leader and commander; not since the Bn has been in actual contact with the enemy during its entire length overseas have casualties been so light. Vehicular casualties were extremely light and personnel casualties unnoticable.

During the month of April the 48th can rightfully say it has spearheaded most of the division objectives reaching them all including the Corp objective with speed and precision surpassed by none and equaled by few.

Highlights of the month consist of the crossings of the Rhein, Danube and Isar Rivers and the 48th operations can be summed up with these famous words "We have met the enemy and they are ours".

SECRET